

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 10 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment which is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 11 are canceled.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 8 is canceled rendering the objection thereto moot.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP200277068 to Moriwaki et al. (hereinafter "Moriwaki") and claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,339,829 to Connor (hereinafter "Connor"). Claim 2 is canceled rendering the rejection thereto moot. The features of claim 2 are incorporated into claim 1.

As discussed above, claim 3 that depended upon claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claims 2 and 3. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriwaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,982,722 to Wyatt (hereinafter "Wyatt"). As discussed above, Claim 8 is canceled rendering the objection thereto moot.

Claim 7 includes the features of claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 2 and claim 3 that is allowable. Thus, Applicant

respectfully submits that claim 7 that depends from claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriwaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,817,704 to Yamashita (hereinafter "Yamashita").

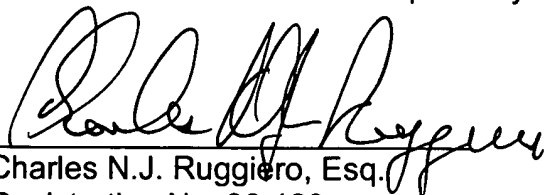
Claim 9 includes the features of claim 1 described above. As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 2 and claim 3 that is allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 that depends from claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Connor in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,181,474 to Shaw (hereinafter "Shaw").

Claim 10 includes all of the features of claim 1 described above. As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 2 and claim 3 that is allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 that depends from claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited. In the alternative, it is believed that the instant amendment places the present application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment are respectfully requested.

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